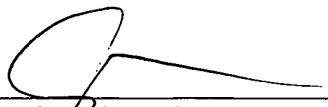


**REMARKS**

The amendment to the claim was made to remove the multiple dependency of the claim. It is submitted that no new matter has been added and entry of the amendment is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with this response or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-3402.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attorney Docket No.: SCH-1823

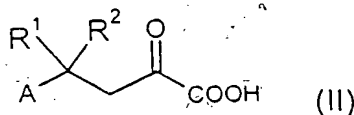
Date: November 13, 2001

**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend claim 8 as follows:

8. (Amended) Process for the production of compounds of general formula I according to claim [claims] 1 [and 2], characterized in that an  $\alpha$ -ketocarboxylic acid of general formula II

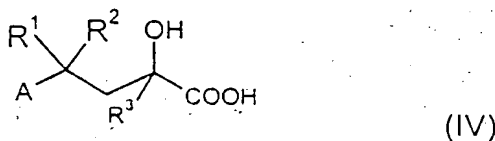


in which A, R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>2</sup> have the meanings that are indicated in formula I, is either optionally esterified with a compound of general formula



in which R<sup>3</sup> has the meaning that is indicated in general formula I, and R<sup>12</sup> means a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>5</sub> alkyl group,

in the presence of a catalyst, such as, e.g., fluoride salts or basic compounds such as alkali carbonates, or is reacted with an alkyl metal compound, for example a Grignard reagent or a lithium alkyl, to form a compound of formula IV



optionally the ester is cleaved again and then is reacted with a compound of general formula V



whereby  $R^{13}$  means a hydrogen atom of a  $C_1-C_5$  acyl group, and Ar has the meaning that is indicated in general formula I, whereby the radical  $R^{13}$  is cleaved off or is reacted directly with a compound of general formula



whereby  $R^{13}$  means a hydrogen atom of a  $C_1-C_5$  acyl group, and Ar has the meaning that is indicated in general formula I, optionally after activation of the acid function by, e.g., conversion into the acid chloride, whereby the radical  $R^{13}$  is cleaved off in any sequence and is reacted with a compound of general formula III



in which  $R^3$  and  $R^{12}$  have the above-indicated meanings, in the presence of a catalyst, such as, e.g., fluoride salts or basic compounds such as alkali carbonates, or is reacted with an alkyl metal compound, for example a Grignard reagent or a lithium alkyl.